

O'CONNOR – PATENT APPLICATION

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A covering for use on an exterior surface, comprising:

a fibrous layer having a back surface;

a moldable layer directly applied to the entire back surface of the fibrous layer and having a bottom surface with an adhesive quality, the moldable layer being applied at a volume of at least about 185 grams per square meter between the back surface of the fibrous layer and the bottom surface; and

a release sheet releasably secured to the bottom surface of the moldable layer,

wherein the fibrous layer, the moldable layer and the release sheet form a composite strip that is elongated with a predetermined length and has a predetermined width, the predetermined width being less than the predetermined length.

2. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is formed of a hot melt adhesive.

3. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet is formed of a silicon coated material.

4. The covering of claim 1, wherein the fibrous layer is a mat formed by needle punching.

5. The covering of claim 1, wherein the back surface is rough and the moldable layer conforms to the back surface.

6. The covering of claim 1, wherein the composite strip is packaged in a roll.

7. The covering of claim 1, wherein the predetermined width is less than twelve inches.

8. The covering of claim 1, wherein the predetermined length is at least 25 feet.

9. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet has a separate central release strip.

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10. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet is formed as three release strips including a release strip on each edge and a middle release strip disposed between the release strips on the edge, wherein each release strip is separately removable from the moldable layer.

11. The covering of claim 10, wherein the middle release strip overlaps the release strips on the edges.

12. The covering of claim 1, wherein the release sheet has free edges that extend beyond the fibrous layer and moldable layer in a direction of the predetermined width.

13. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is applied at a volume of between about 185 and 465 grams per square meter.

14. The covering of claim 1, wherein the moldable layer is applied at a volume of between about 355 and 465 grams per square meter.

15. A covering for use on an exterior surface, comprising:

a fibrous layer having a back surface;

a moldable layer directly applied to the entire back surface of the fibrous layer and having a bottom surface with an adhesive quality, the moldable layer being at least 5 mils thick between the back surface of the fibrous layer and the bottom surface; and

a release sheet releasably secured to the bottom surface of the moldable layer,

wherein the fibrous layer, the moldable layer and the release sheet form a composite strip that is elongated with a predetermined length and has a predetermined width, the predetermined width being less than the predetermined length.

16. The covering of claim 15, wherein the moldable layer is formed of a hot melt adhesive.

17. The covering of claim 15, wherein the moldable layer is between about 5 mils and 17 mils thick.

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18. The covering of claim 15, wherein the moldable layer is between about 13 mils and 17 mils thick.
19. The covering of claim 15, wherein the moldable layer is on average about 13 mils thick.
20. The covering of claim 15, wherein the release sheet is formed of a silicon coated material.
21. The covering of claim 15, wherein the fibrous layer is a mat formed by needle punching.
22. The covering of claim 15, wherein the back surface is rough and the moldable layer conforms to the back surface.
23. The covering of claim 15, wherein the composite strip is packaged in a roll.
24. The covering of claim 15, wherein the predetermined width is less than twelve inches.
25. The covering of claim 15, wherein the predetermined length is at least 25 feet.
26. The covering of claim 15, wherein the release sheet has a separate central release strip.
27. The covering of claim 15, wherein the release sheet is formed as three release strips including a release strip on each edge and a middle release strip disposed between the release strips on the edge, wherein each release strip is separately removable from the moldable layer.
28. The covering of claim 27, wherein the middle release strip overlaps the release strips on the edges.
29. The covering of claim 15, wherein the release sheet is wider than the fibrous layer and the moldable layer.

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30. A covering product for application to an upper surface of each of a plurality of elongated boards each having a pair of opposed sides and width measured between the opposed side edges, the covering product comprising:

an elongated strip of flexible floor covering material having a back surface and a width slightly less than the width of the elongated boards so that upon application the elongated strip lies between the opposed sides to leave a gap on both sides of the upper surface of the board;

a moldable layer with an adhesive surface applied to the back surface of the elongated strip of floor covering material for direct attachment of the back surface to an upper surface of one of the elongated boards by the adhesive surface;

the elongated strip of floor covering material and the moldable layer being rolled longitudinally; and

a release material releasably secured to the adhesive surface and arranged to cooperate between the adhesive surface and the elongated strip of floor covering material to allow unrolling of the rolled strip and the adhesive surface for application of the moldable layer to one of the elongated boards.

31. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the floor covering material is a non-woven fibrous carpet material.

32. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the moldable layer is at least 5 mils thick.

33. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the moldable layer is applied in a volume of at least about 130 grams per square meter.

34. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the moldable layer is applied in a volume of about 250 – 325 grams per square meter.

35. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the back surface of the floor covering material is uneven, and the moldable layer has a smoothed bottom surface and a thickness that is sufficient to fill the unevenness of the back surface.

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36. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the moldable layer has a minimum thickness measured from the smooth bottom surface to the uneven back surface of at least 5 mils.

37. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the release material comprises a plurality of release sheets arranged side by side along the length of the strip of floor covering material such that each release sheet can be removed separately from the strip of floor covering material.

38. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the release material comprises three strips of release sheet material arranged side by side along the length of the strip of floor covering material and arranged such that a central one of the three strips can be removed separately for initial application of the strip of floor covering material.

39. The covering product of claim 38, wherein the central strip overlaps the adjacent strips of release material.

40. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the release material is wider than the strip of floor covering material to form free edges that can be grasped by an installer.

41. The covering product of claim 30, wherein the moldable layer covers the entire back surface of the strip.